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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,747	09/12/2003	Thomas D. Williams	62451.00002	5988

32294 7590 03/02/2007
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EXAMINER

OSBERG, THIUY THANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/660,747

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Osberg

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the original application filed 09/12/2003.
This action is Non-Final. Claims 1-6 are pending and have been examined.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - A. In the specification, page 7, under "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS" the Applicant failed to disclose Figure 1 and Figure 7.
 - B. In the specification, the Applicant failed to describe Figure 7.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sorokin et al. (US Patent 6,522,325), hereinafter "Sorokin"

As claim 1, Sorokin teaches a method for creating visual telepresence for a large number of simultaneous users (fig. 1, labels 10, 14, 18, 22, 14; col. 4, lines 52-56) comprising the steps of

- a. Simultaneously and continuously processing sets of images from a plurality of cameras (fig. 1, labels 14, 18, 20, 22; col. 5, lines 53-56) to produce sets of short visual sequences that provide for virtual short movements in the environment (col. 6, lines 24-29, that the relative movement paths through the array will provide the virtual short movements); and
- b. Routing these many simultaneous repetitive short sequences to a plurality of user service processes (col. 4, lines 9-16); and
- c. Composing these short sequences into continuous video streams that provide convincing visual display (col. 12, lines 37-47, lines 61-67, that by increasing the camera outputs to 24 frames per second it would provide streaming video) of telepresence to many simultaneous users (col. 4, lines 52-56).

As claim 2, Sorokin further teaches the method in claim 1 wherein

- a. The user commands are used to determine which virtual path to switch to at the next short sequence juncture for each individual user (fig. 1, label 24; col. 8, lines 37-43).

As claim 3, Sorokin further teaches the method in claim 1 wherein

- a. Some or all of the short visual sequences provide for stationary views of the environment (col. 12, lines 63-65, that by adjusting the refresh rate can show a static view).

As claim 4, Sorokin further teaches the method in claim 1 wherein

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a. The length of short sequences is one frame (col. 12, lines 63-65, that by adjusting the frame refresh rate can show a static view).

As claim 5, Sorokin further teaches the method in claim 2 wherein a. Some or all of the short virtual short sequences provide for stationary views of the environment (col. 12, lines 63-65, that by adjusting the frame refresh rate can show a static view).

As claim 6, Sorokin further teaches the method of claim 5 wherein a. The length of short sequences is one frame (col. 12, lines 63-65, that by adjusting the frame refresh rate can show a static view).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hubbe et al. (US Patent 6,667,748) – Method of displaying image sequences on mobile radio communications equipment co-operating with a subscriber identity module.

Logan et al. (US Pub 2007/0026852) – Multimedia telephone system.

Lapalme et al. (US Patent 6,753,899) – Method and apparatus for telepresence.

Abrams et al. (US Pub 2004/0119435) – Method and apparatus for remote location shopping over a computer network.

Suzuki (US Pub 2003/0231179) – Internet system for virtual telepresence.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Osberg whose telephone number is 571-270-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30AM-5:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TTO

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER